

IN COOPERATION WITH USDA—NATIONAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT IN ALABAMA

2001 ANNUAL REPORT

ALABAMA ASSOCIATION OF RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT COUNCILS

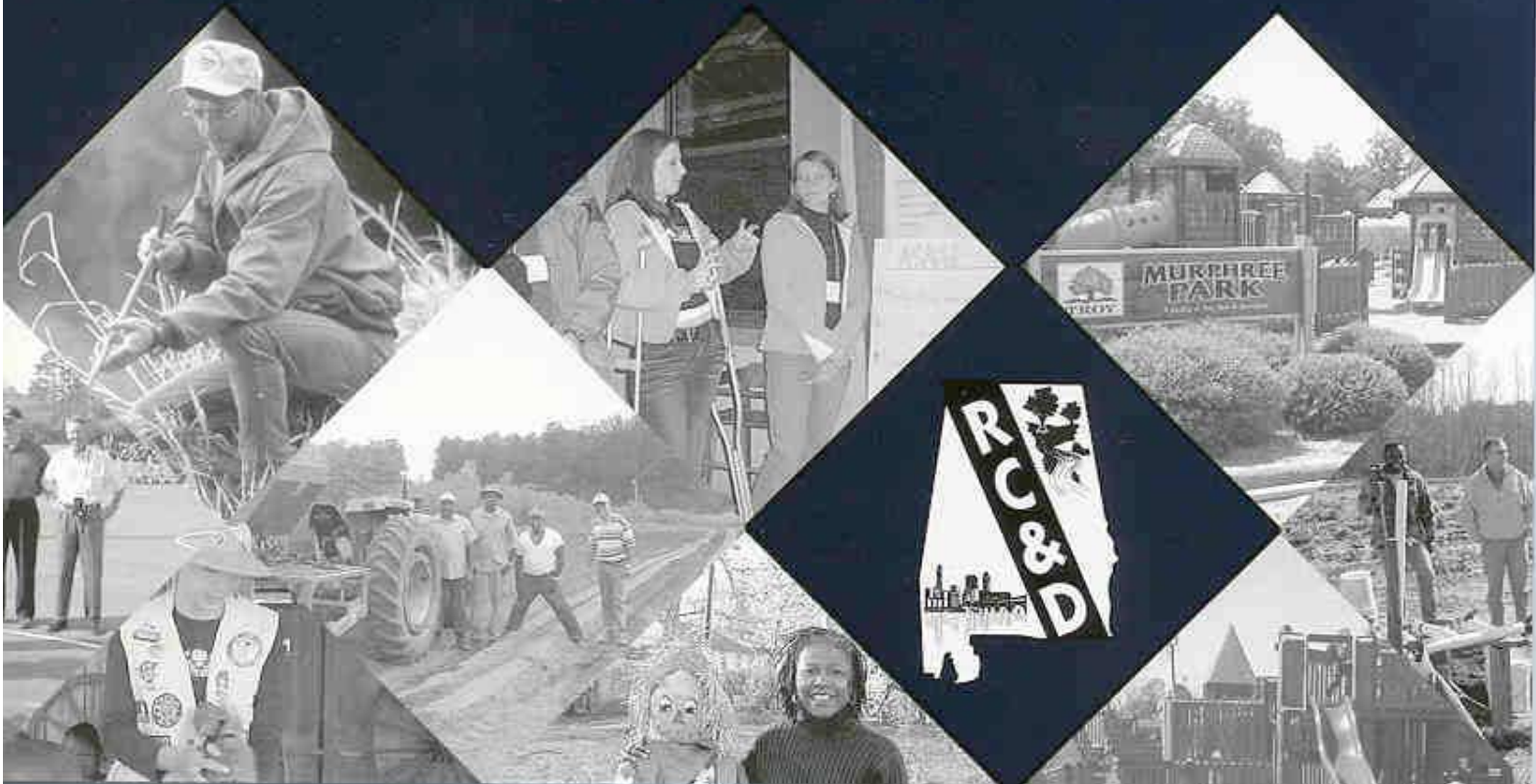


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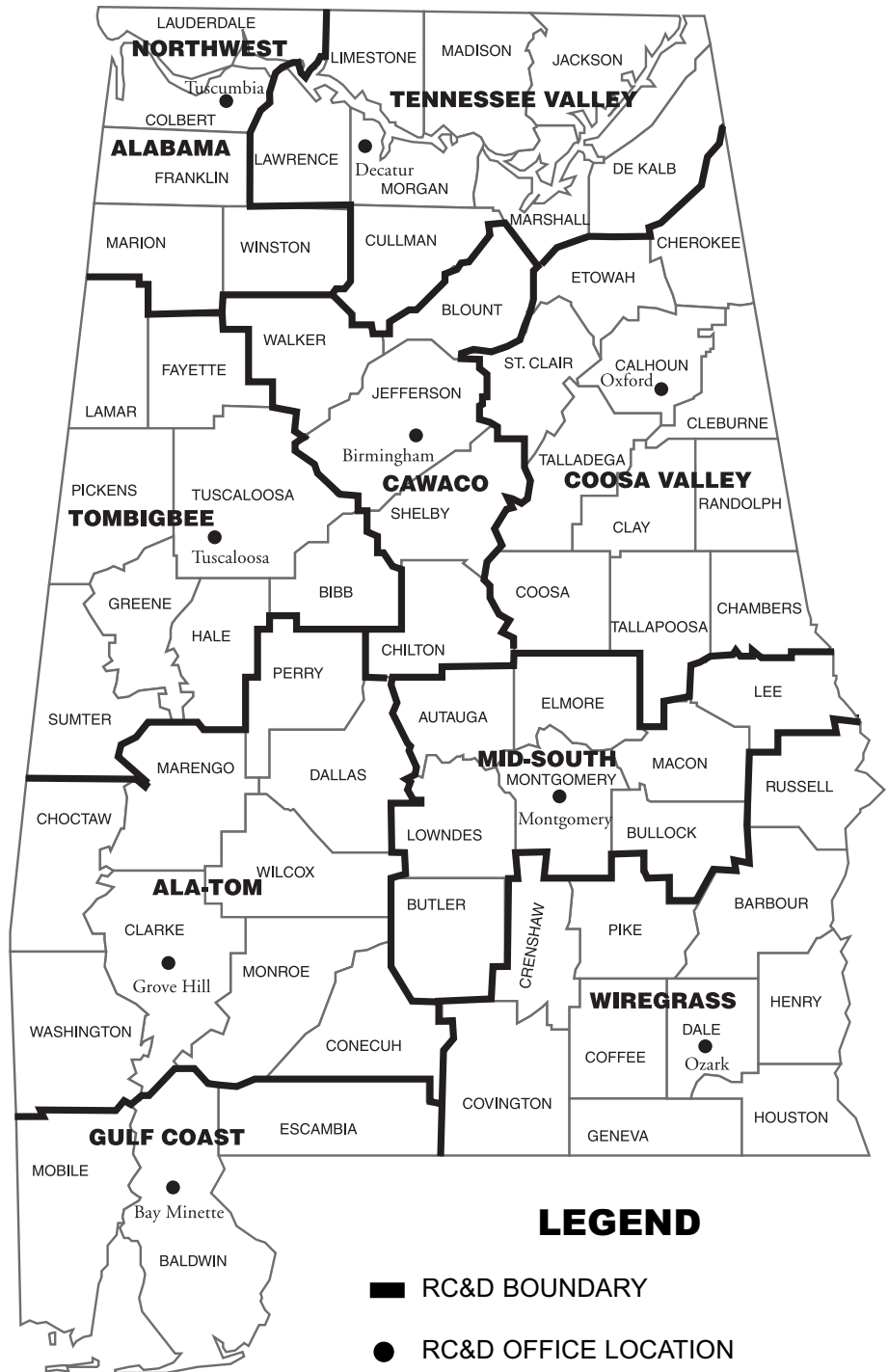


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Development Councils
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RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT AREAS

The major difference between RC&D and most other programs developed by state and federal government is that RC&D projects are identified and carried out by local people, not someone in Washington, D.C. or in Montgomery.



INTRODUCTION

RC&D in Alabama depends on the leadership abilities and unique skills within the communities it serves. That is why so many worthwhile projects have been undertaken and accomplished throughout the state.

A significant accomplishment of RC&D is the rekindling of community spirit. There are so many ways to describe RC&D; however it is basically people doing things for other people.

In essence, it is local people identifying their problems and opportunities and dealing with them, with a little help from the government and from others.

The RC&D Councils in Alabama are proud of their accomplishments; but there is much yet that can be done to make our communities a better place to live.

The Association is dedicated to protecting, enhancing, and developing the state's natural and human resources.

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*Protecting water resources in the
communities we serve*



*RC&D is basically
people helping people,
identifying problems
and opportunities and
dealing with them.*

*The Resource
Conservation and
Development (RC&D)
Program is a partnership
between local people
and the agencies of the
United States Department
of Agriculture (USDA).*

• Neil Hyche •



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The Resource Conservation and Development Program is a partnership between local people and the agencies of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). Its mission is to plan, conserve, and utilize natural resources to solve locally identified problems.

It is based on Councils, each consisting of three to eleven counties. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), as lead agency, provides coordinators who work with the councils to find resources, money skills or materials needed to execute council projects. Other partners include the Alabama Cooperative Extension System (ACES), the Alabama Forestry Commission (AFC), the U.S. Forest Service, the Farm Services Agency (FSA), and Rural Development (RD).

Alabama's nine councils cover the state. Each member county has a minimum of three representatives, one appointed by the county commissions, one appointed by the Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), and a third appointed as an at large representative, chosen by the two groups. Some councils have additional memberships in order to reach a wider audience.

RC&D Councils work in many diverse fields in accordance with the mission "to encourage and improve the capability of state and local nonprofit organizations in rural areas to plan, develop, and carry out programs for resource conservation and development," as stated in Public Law 97-98. The major difference between RC&D and most other programs developed by state and federal government is that RC&D projects are identified and carried out by local people, not someone in Washington, D.C. or in Montgomery.

The one constant thing about RC&D, as in life, is change. RC&D is still growing, both in Alabama and nationally. Nationally, RC&D has proven to be one of USDA's most popular programs. In Alabama, RC&D has become a significant force in rural development. Many councils have reached a point where they must have additional staff in order to meet the needs of their communities. RC&D must grow to meet these opportunities.

RC&D welcomes your interest in our program. Join us to make a difference in your community.

Neil Hyche

President, Alabama Association of RC&D Councils

2001 ASSOCIATION ACTIVITIES

PROJECTS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR 2001

The Alabama Association of RC&D Councils is an association of the nine local councils that cover the State of Alabama. The purpose of this association is to:

- Encourage communication and the exchange of ideas among the Councils.
- Lead and assist on statewide projects.
- Provide a focal point and a unified voice for RC&D in Alabama.
- Offer education and training for local council members.

The Alabama Association of RC&D Councils holds an annual meeting for all Alabama RC&D Council members. An executive committee comprised of the nine council chairs or their representatives meet quarterly or as needed to accomplish the mission of the association. The state association has functioned since 1982 and was incorporated in 1994.

Activities accomplished in 2001 include:

- More than 100 council members and supporters attended the annual meeting in Oxford in April of 2001.
- The Association assisted in the coordination of environmental education and watershed assessment projects funded by the Alabama Department of Environmental management and local sponsors. (Sec. 319 Grants)
- The Association led the effort to offer the Environthon environmental education program, sponsored by the National Envirothon Committee and the National Association of Conservation Districts to the school children of Alabama.
- The Association continued into an agreement with ADEM to promote the Clean Vessel Act and Marina Pumpout Training.
- The Association was included in the General Fund budget, receiving \$750,000 as a line item in the State Committee budget. The “seed” money was used to leverage over \$6 million in local projects.
- The Association took an active role in a partnership with Rural Development to restore economic vitality to rural areas. Special emphasis was placed on the blackbelt region.
- The Association continued its active participation in projects to develop economically feasible alternatives to large-scale businesses by providing small farm operators with buying and marketing alternatives.
- The Association is actively working with the Rural Volunteer Firefighters Association to promote rural fire protection.
- The Association is also working with the Department of Human Resources on a “Wheels to Work” program to further reduce welfare dependency. Two on-going projects (Northwest Council and Tombigbee Council) are in their third year of funding.



*The Association took
an active role
in a partnership with
Rural Development
to restore
economic vitality
to rural areas.
Special emphasis
was placed on
the blackbelt region.*

ALA-TOM RC&D COUNCIL

The ALA-TOM RC&D Council covers the following nine Southwest Alabama counties: Choctaw, Clarke, Conecuh, Dallas, Marengo, Monroe, Perry, Washington, and Wilcox. The office is located in Grove Hill.

PROJECTS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR 2001

Old Cahawba Nature Trail—A handicapped accessible nature trail was completed at the Cahawba Historical Park. The concrete trail surface offers anyone an opportunity to enjoy the woodlands and creek views at the park. The Council appropriated \$7,000 in State funds, and the park received an \$48,000 grant from ADECA's Recreational Trails Program.

Gilmore Elementary/Jackson Intermediate School Outdoor Classroom—An outdoor classroom was built at the adjoining school campuses under the leadership of Toni Ice of the Clarke County Soil and Water Conservation District. The Council appropriated \$2,189.78 in State funds, with matching grants of \$1,200 from the Bradley-Murphy Trust, \$2,000 from the City of Jackson, and \$2,500 of in-kind local labor.

Thomasville Elementary School Outdoor Classroom—The school constructed an outdoor classroom using \$15,000 in local grants, and based upon a design by the U.S. Forest Service's landscape architect in Alabama whose services were obtained by the Council.

Alabama-West Florida Minority Cooperative Enhancement Initiative—The Council obtained a \$225,000 grant from USDA-Rural Development, Rural Business and Cooperative Service to work with minority cooperatives in Alabama and Florida. The grant was used to develop markets for products with school systems, establish a revolving micro-loan program for small farmers and cooperatives, assist in developing the commercial rabbit production industry, develop a alternative agriculture demonstration with the Southern Beef Growers Cooperative, and to assist in the development of the cooperative grocery store in Thomaston. In-kind matching funds from the cooperatives and their advisors totaled approximately \$133,000.

McIntosh Community Park Addition—The Council assisted the McIntosh Community Organization with planning, engineering, and a \$1,800 grant from

continued

Zack Rogers Park in Butler.

*Pictured below: Norman L. Burton,
Rep. Thomas Jackson, Mayor Ben Smith,
Sen. W. H. "Pat" Lindsey and
Probate Judge Michael Armistead.*



2001 OFFICERS AND STAFF

Chairman—Johnny L. Flowers,
Perry County Commission

Vice-Chairman—Jerry Davidson
Washington County Soil & Water
Conservation District

Secretary/Treasurer—
Rhondel B. Rhone
Clarke County Commission

RC&D Coordinator—
Norman L. Burton

Office Manager—Elaine Embrey

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ALA-TOM RC&D COUNCIL MEMBERS

Choctaw County

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Michael Armistead
David Sparrow

Clarke County

Rhondel B. Rhone
John F. Calhoun
Steve James

Dallas County

Carl Morgan, Jr.
Curtis Williams
Harrell Watts

Marengo County

Patsy Sumrall
Max Joiner
Lex Parker

Monroe County

Geral R. Jordan
John E. Harper
Carlisle McClure

Perry County

Johnny L. Flowers
Charles Holmes
Donald Cook

Washington County

Jerry Davidson
John Armstrong
Albert Ridgeway

Wilcox County

Darryl D. Perryman
Elijah Shaw
McDuffie Stallworth

ALA-TOM RC&D COUNCIL PROJECTS CONTINUED

State funds for a softball field and an asphalt walking trail. An additional \$12,250 grant was obtained from ADECA's Recreational Trail Program. The Washington County Commission provided \$5,000 of in-kind assistance.

Zack Rogers Park Addition—The City of Butler added an additional baseball field at their park with the assistance of an \$8,000 State funds grant from the Council. The city provided an additional \$57,000 of cash and in-kind services towards the project.

Marion Depot Landscaping—The Council provided \$7,000 in State funds to landscape the City of Marion's Depot, which serves as a welcome center for tourists, as well as the Perry County Chamber of Commerce office. Local grant funds provided \$3,070.

Alabama Fish Farming Center Computers—The ALA-TOM and Tombigbee RC&D Councils each provided \$2,300 in State funds to purchase computers and software for the center engineering and administrative staff.

Jackson Area Summer Reading Program—The Council provided \$1,000 in State funds to the Gilmore Elementary School to continue the Alabama Reading Initiative through the summer months. This was a highly successful program that has increased test scores for the participants. The Alabama Power Foundation provided \$1,000 also, and in-kind matching from teachers was valued at \$1,775.



Plasticulture demonstrations were conducted in several counties.



Wilcox Central High School Plasticulture Demonstration—A \$1,000 State funds grant was provided to the school's agriculture program to learn how to produce vegetables under black plastic mulch and trickle irrigation. The school provided in-kind labor valued at \$500.

Perry County Plasticulture Demonstration—The Council provided \$1,000 in State funds to the Perry County Small Farmers Association to demonstrate and train the small farmers in the use of plastic mulch and trickle irrigation. The association provided in-kind assistance valued at \$1,000.

Jackson Intermediate School Landscaping Plan—The Urban Forester did a complete landscaping plan for this new school in Jackson. The school and volunteers will install items, as funds become available.

Wilcox United Presbyterian Ball Field Lights—The Council provided a \$5,000 State funds grant to place lights on the local ball field to allow league play and other activities at the Presbyterian school complex in Annie Manie, Alabama. The group also received a \$5,000 grant from the Weyerhaeuser Foundation, and used \$5,000 of their own funds to complete the project.

Wilcox Summer Youth Program—State Representative James Thomas led the effort to establish a summer educational program for youth in Wilcox County, which provided intervention activities and cultural enrichment. The program was housed at the Wilcox Central High School. The project was funded with \$12,000 from State RC&D, and \$35,000 from ADECA.

*Plasticulture
(growing crops under
black plastic sheets
with trickle irrigation)
is an efficient way
to grow produce
using fewer herbicides
and less water.*

CAWACO RC&D COUNCIL

The Cawaco RC&D Council is located in north central Alabama. The Council's name originates from the principal natural assets of the area, the Cahaba, Warrior and Coosa Rivers. This Council serves five Counties: Blount Chilton, Jefferson, Shelby and Walker.

Historically much of the area has been agriculture and heavy industry. Today rural land is being converted to residential and commercial uses as the metropolitan areas of Birmingham and Montgomery expand.

PROJECTS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR 2001

Your Town - Alabama Designing It's Future—This is an intensive training workshop for local citizens, which teaches them how to affect change in their communities and protect the quality of their towns by implementing proper design techniques. This initiative has developed into a statewide initiative with partners from all over the state. Over 300 graduates are at work in their towns. <http://www.yourtownalabama.org>

NEMO—Nonpoint Education for Elected Officials. We continue to assist in the development and promotion of this statewide training effort.

Scenic Byways—Assist the ad hoc committee in the development of statewide rural enhancements like byways.

Urban Forestry Outreach—An effort to accelerate the development of urban forestry programs and capacity among small towns and municipalities. This year we were able to secure a \$200,000 grant for remote sensing that will result in a "state of the canopy" report and recommendations for improvements for more than 22 municipalities.

Cahaba River Basin Project Steering Committee—An initiative to identify, rank, and initiate opportunities for improving the condition of the Cahaba River. See www.cahabariver.com

continued

Learning about firefighting



2001 OFFICERS AND STAFF

President of the Board—
Paul McCaleb

Project Coordinator—
Paul Kennedy

Program Manager—
Suzanne Davidson

Administrative Assistant—
Jan Holliday

Landscape Designer—
Terry Joyner

Warrior River Facilitator—
Kellie Johnston

BUGS Coordinator—
Vee Crockrom

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Charles Morton
Nell Miller

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Quinton Cummings
LaNelle Freeman
Dan Murchison
Glenda Stength

Jefferson County

Jennifer Fairley
Paul McCaleb
Preston Scarber
Bruno Tropeano

Shelby County

Jim Bice
Paul Tate
Jim White
At-Large

Walker County

Dorman Grace
Bruce Hamrick
Joe Love
Joeletta Martin

CAWACO RC&D COUNCIL PROJECTS CONTINUED

Aquaculture as an Alternative Income Source—A very successful trial of new developments in Tilapia culture is promising to deliver better profits with minimal initial investment.

Conversion of abandoned city lots to Community Gardens—We have partnered with the BUGS Board of Directors to install 11 school gardens and a number of Community Gardens. These areas provide food, neighborhood enhancement, and teach biological sciences. Additional gardens and support are being developed. For the first time we have partnered with the Global Ministries Program of the United Methodist Church. This “faith based” assistance will help expand the program, perhaps even going statewide. Entrepreneurial training is a big part of these sustainable community gardens as well.
http://bugs_people.tripod.com/

Farm Safety Day Camp—This program trains 9 – 13 year olds in how to be safe while working outdoors with animals, power equipment and teaches emergency first aid among other topics. Over 750 children and adults have been trained. Planned again for 2002, this event is sponsored by Progressive Farmer and locally by the County SWCDs and the County Cooperative Extension System.

Development of an Environmental Technician Curriculum for “Khaki Collar Workers”—We are cooperating with Lawson State Community College in the development of a curriculum that will teach skills for better paying jobs and perhaps lead to advanced degrees in fields such as engineering and environmental science.



Bill Bolen of Fox 6 News talking with Vee Crockrom about B.U.G.S.

Chilton Pride—An aggressive litter control program begun in a county watershed assessment is now recruiting and training volunteers. They have conducted a number of volunteer cleanups resulting in tons of materials.

Your Town Youth Workshop—Over the four-day period from January 3 - 6, a group of 18 high school students attended the initial Your Town Alabama Youth Workshop. One objective of this small group was to test our youth program delivery. The participants for the first youth workshop were drawn from high schools in Jasper, Mobile, Montevallo, and Trussville—four of the cities where a number of enthusiastic adult graduates of the Your Town Alabama adult workshops reside. Selecting youth from these towns was important since the workshop requires the participants to make a presentation to their city council and to do a project in their hometown prior to high school graduation. Connecting the youth with the adult leaders within the town has helped reinforce the energy, vision and enthusiasm each group has brought to the whole.

Warrior River Basin – Clean Water Partnership. A stakeholder led process of public participation to determine the best ways of protecting, improving and enhancing one of the most taken for granted watersheds in Alabama. See <http://www.warriorcwp.org>

Alternative Agriculture Enterprises—Sustains and expands the rural farm economies of our five counties. Examples are Ginseng, Black Walnut Orchards, Kenaf production, and Tilapia.

Landscape Design Initiative—This effort is providing technical assistance to the District and our partners in better “gateways” to our communities. Funded in part by Grants this effort will help our rural communities to create a better aesthetics and be more attractive to the citizens of their community as well as to be more enticing for economic development.

Sustainable Communities Grant—Secured a grant from EPA to augment Smart Growth initiatives in the Cahaba Basin

Vermicomposting—Secured \$45,000 from Heifer Project International to add worms, composting, sustainable agriculture, and entrepreneurial training to the Community Garden initiative

Upper Cahaba—Behind the leadership of the Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham and the Jefferson County Commission, we serve on this initiative’s Task Forces. To date this consortium has raised nearly

continued

A group of youth participating in the first ever Youth Your Town Workshop discuss alternatives to traditional development



*After completing the
Your Town Youth Workshop,
the young people
are teamed with
Your Town graduates
already in their town
who help them
make a difference
in their home town.*



*Urban gardens
provide food,
neighborhood enhancement,
and teach
biological sciences*

CAWACO RC&D COUNCIL PROJECTS CONTINUED

\$200,000 in cash and an equal amount of In-Kind services to model and improve the development of the upper portions of the Cahaba Basin

Recreational Facility Improvements, Oneonta—Helped secure a \$25,000 grant to make improvements to the City of Oneonta's recreation facilities.

Berry Mountain School—Secured \$5,000 grant to make improvements to a one room school house, museum and community center in central Blount County.

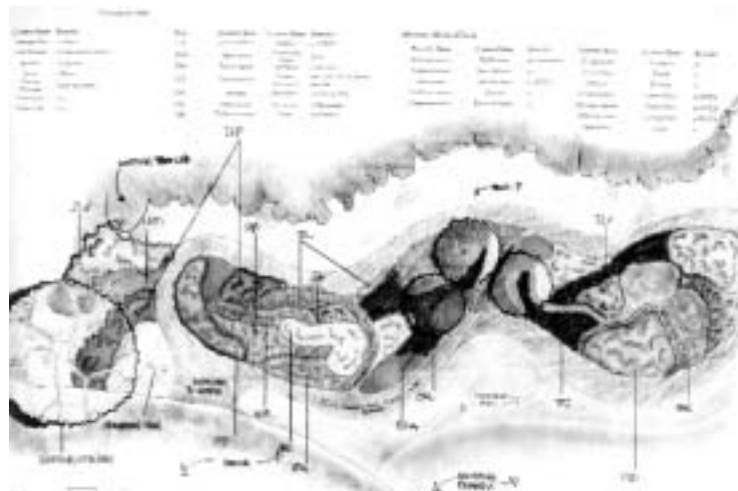
Vestavia Reading Program—Helped to secure a \$25,000 grant to accelerate a reading program to improve student-reading levels.

Vestavia Hills Skate Park—Helped to secure a \$15,000 grant to make improvements to an under used parking lot. It is being converted into a skate park and picnic area where families can gather to safely skateboard. This will get the youth to a safe and secure place for skating and perhaps biking.

Palisades Park—\$5,000 grant to do a master plan for the development of Palisades Park as an overnight camping and recreational vehicle park.

Alabama Power Company, Urban Tree Grants—Through the Landscape Design projects graphics and grant assistance, 8 municipalities or organizations were able to secure mini-grants from the APC Foundation to enhance their community.

Canoe Access Points—Developed access points in all five Council counties.



Landscaping around Sloss Furnaces, one of the many landscape design projects completed by Terry Joyner, our staff landscape designer.

COOSA VALLEY RC&D COUNCIL

The Coosa Valley RC&D Council covers the following areas in Alabama: Calhoun, Chambers, Cherokee, Clay, Cleburne, Coosa, Etowah, Randolph, St. Clair, Talladega, and Tallapoosa. The office is located in Oxford.

The Council held quarterly meetings during the fiscal year 2001. Meetings were well attended by sponsoring organizations. The resource committee members were reappointed to their respective committees at the October 5, 2001 meeting. These committees carried out their intended functions for the year.

The council hosted the state RC&D Annual Meeting April 25-27, 2001.

PROJECTS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR 2001

Agriculture and Forestry—A planning meeting was held January 25, 2001 to develop area priority for the Council's work plan. Priority measures were presented to the full council for funding approval at the quarterly meeting in April. Measures included (1) Training in timber cruising; (2) Training on estate planning; (3) Establish a Forest-Related CD/Tape Library; (4) GPS units in area and training for users; (5) School Group and Landowner Tour; (6) Demonstration of poultry litter on timberland; (7) Tour and workshop on commercial hunting. Committee assignments were made on measures after approval.

Industry, Business, and Community Facilities—Continue to study the crawfish industry for the Coosa Valley Council Area. Continue assisting in developing the Piedmont Catfish Industry. Project added for Coosa County-Lake Martin Regional Industrial Park.

Fish & Wildlife/Recreation & Tourism—The committee continued emphasizing multi-county approach to area tourist industry. Several measures were added that were recreation and tourism directed. These include (1) Cherokee County canoe trail; (2) Choccolocco Creek canoe trail; (3) Camp Hill recreation park; (4) Woodland ball field; (5) Gaston School & Community Park; (6) Carrville Softball Complex; (7) Loyd Owens canoe

continued

Pell City Recreation Park.



2001 OFFICERS AND STAFF

Chairman—Glenn Hawkins

Vice-Chairman—Bill Thomas

Secretary-Treasurer—James White

RC&D Coordinator—Vacant

Acting RC&D Coordinator—
Heidi Janes

Secretary—Sharon Stone

Aquaculturist—David Cline

WSI Coordinator—Charlie Brown

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Alton Hall
Glenn Hawkins

Chambers County

W.E. "Bill" Thomas
Wayne White

Cherokee County

John Garmon
Dale Welch

Clay County

Ricky Burney
Robert Howle

Cleburne County

Loyd Owens
Judge Ryan Robertson

Coosa County

Judge Perry Mitchell.
Sally Holland

Etowah County

Billy Mathis
Mike Naugher

Randolph County

Larry Raughton
Dean Wysner

St. Clair County

Stanley Batemon
Perry Poe

Talladega County

John Carter
James White

Tallapoosa County

Wilford Holt
William Thweatt

COOSA VALLEY RC&D COUNCIL PROJECTS CONTINUED

trail; (8) Cherokee County Ed Yarbrough Recreation Park; and (9) Woodland Senior Citizen Walking Trail. Worked continued on the Pell City Recreation Park on Lake Martin.

Watershed Structural Improvement—Committee meeting was held January 10, 2001. Completed inspections and needed maintenance for all state flood control structures. Secured operating funds for program (\$50,000). Reviewed use of council mulchers and sprayer equipment. Approved watershed coordinator contract for year. Hosted WSI information meeting in Oxford on March 14, 2001.

Nutrient Management—Committee meeting was held January 10, 2001. Reviewed use of irrigation equipment. Discussed ways to ensure that proper procedures are followed when spreading nutrients. Added demonstration project for diked field storage of breeder litter.

Other activities included obtaining funding for two timber bridges.

GULF COAST RC&D COUNCIL

The Gulf Coast RC&D Council covers the following areas in Southwest Alabama: Baldwin, Escambia, Mobile, and the Poarch Band of Creek Indians. The office is located in Bay Minette.

PROJECTS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR 2001

Bishop State Community College—Aluminum Can Recycling Project, each campus has its own recycling project.

Escambia County S&WCD—Environmental Field Day provides a fun, but educational way for students to learn about their environment and natural resources.

Escambia County High School—Building Class will build birdhouses, bat boxes and wood duck boxes to donate to the community.

Alabama Ductile Company—Flooding project in the city of Brewton, Alabama.

Malone Family 3rd Annual Catfish Roundup—Fishing Day for the Disabled that normally would not have an opportunity to fish.

Turtle Point Science Center—Protect the Environment Day, teaching students to protect their environment and natural resources.

Saltwater Shrimp Farming—Alternative Agriculture

Houston Avery Park—Erosion Control for the community youth softball park.

School Recycling—Recycling in the Three County Schools, each school recycles aluminum cans and the proceeds are used for school projects.

Weeks Bay Watershed—Water Monitoring

Fairhope Intermediate School—Outdoor Nature Center, boardwalk and pond.

Escambia County Log Jam—Flooding due to a Logjam between Alabama and Florida.

continued

Catfish Roundup for the Disabled



2001 OFFICERS AND STAFF

Chairperson—Brenda Litchfield

Vice-Chairperson—Otis French

Secretary—Jack Morris

Treasurer—Frank Nalty

RC&D Coordinator—Vacant

Acting Coordinator—
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Otis French
Pam Henson
Jack Morris

Escambia County

William C. America
Dr. Sam Eichold
Frank Nalty
Herbert Payne
Larry White

Mobile County

Mike Dean
Jewell Felder
Dr. Yvonne Kennedy
Brenda Litchfield
John Pafenach

Poarch Band of Creek Indians

Eddie Tullis
John McGhee



School Recycling Program

GULF COAST RC&D COUNCIL PROJECTS CONTINUED



Environmental Field Day

3rd Annual Baldwin Catfish Roundup—Fishing Day for the Disabled giving those who are confined to wheelchairs, homebound or other disabilities a chance to relax and have a diversion from their normal routine.

SWEEP—Sciencing with Watersheds, Environmental Education and Partnerships

South Baldwin Center for Technology—Greenhouse Construction, the class teaches students a trade to enter the local job market.

Bayside East Wetland—Outdoor Classroom, wetland restoration and boardwalk.

SEAS—Students Exploring Aquaculture Science

Baldwin County Historical Society—Historical Book *Where the Wild Illicium Grows*.

MIDSOUTH RC&D COUNCIL

The Mid-South RC&D Council covers the following counties: Autauga, Bullock, Butler Elmore, Lee, Lowndes, Macon, and Montgomery. The office is in Montgomery.

PROJECTS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR 2001

Forestry Awareness & Technical Assistance Pilot Program—Developed a forestry awareness of forestry management and forestry product marketing that has enhanced the economic potential of small landowners. Received a \$50,000 grant from USDA-NRCS to manage this program.

MedAssist—Partnership with State Representative John Knight, South Central Alabama Development Alabama Development Commission Area Agency on Aging, Central Alabama Aging Consortium, and others and created a free life sustaining medication program. Received \$105,000 in grants needed to initiate the program. Setup pilot project in Montgomery, Lowndes and Butler counties that generated \$3,600,000.00 in medication. Program is expanding to six additional counties in FY 2002.

Alabama Small Farmer Improvement Project—Established 70 acres of native grass (eastern gamagrass) in Greene, Perry, Bullock, and Russell counties. Short-term goal is to introduce and educate minority livestock producers on the value of utilizing native grasses in their forage operations. The council obtained a \$20,600 grant from USDA-NRCS to sponsor this project.

Plasticulture III—Council continued to provide assistance to area produce farmers. Received a \$4,300 grant from State Representative Charles Newton to purchase two needed pieces of equipment. Area produce farmers have increased their production and are supplying Alabama markets. Council provided \$5,000 to this project in order to establish commercial seed supply.

Seman Fire Department—Council provided \$5,000.00 to assist in purchasing needed equipment. Total project cost \$11,688.

Pete Lee Baseball Field—Council partnership with the City of Montgomery Department Parks & Recreation in order to renovate this baseball field. Council contributed \$5,000. Total project cost \$113,200.

Distance Diagnostics Through Digital Imaging—This project provides rapid identification and diagnosis of many plant diseases, insects, and weed

continued

Al Hooks—Plasticulture okra in late July



2001 OFFICERS AND STAFF

Chairman—Alma Bowen

Vice-Chairman—Vacant

Secretary-Treasurer—Kathryn Story

RC&D Coordinator—
Charlie McAlpine

Secretary—Sharon Redd

Office Location:

Mid-South RC&D Council
5900 Carmichael Place
Montgomery, AL 36117
334.244.6903 ext. 137

MID-SOUTH RC&D BOARD MEMBERS

Autauga County

Danny Chavers
Curtis Jackson
Chester O. Stephens
Jack Wadsworth

Bullock County

Betty Helms
Myron C. Penn
Donnie Pierce
Hawthorne Reed

Butler County

Lewis Crenshaw
Gary Hanks
Jennifer Stringer
Allin Whittle

Elmore County

S.T. Harry
Scott Ninesling
Jimmy Stubbs

Lee County

Patricia Dakin
David P. Henry
Harry Ennis
Bill Nunn

Lowndes County

Joe Frank Brown
Billy McCurdy
Robert Lane
James Chambliss

Macon County

William Hodge
Miles D. Robinson
Kathryn Story
Jessie Upshaw

Montgomery County

Alma Bowen
Lynn Gowan
C. Mac Johnson
Charles Rittenour, Jr.

MID-SOUTH RC&D COUNCIL PROJECTS CONTINUED

problems. Digital images are sent to Auburn University for review by a Specialist. The specialist can immediately respond to the produce's request. Diagnosis time can be reduced to a single day or to a few days. Quick diagnosis can reduce crop loss and treatment cost. Council provided \$5,000.00 to this project. Total project cost \$10,400.00.

R. H. Kirkpatrick Agricultural Pavilion—This project enabled the Autauga county commission to install a concession stand that will provide on-site food and refreshments. Council contributed \$5,000. Total project cost \$10,224.39.

Wagh Mount Meigs Volunteer Fire Protection Authority—This project assisted the Wagh-Mount Meigs Volunteer Fire Protection Authority with purchase of the lifepak 500 automated external defibrillator (AED). This medical device helps save the live of cardiac arrest patients. Total project cost \$5,125. Council provided \$4,000.00.

Natural Resources Youth Camp—Council assisted the Butler County Forestry Planning Committee in organizing an environmental educational workshop. Total project cost \$6,575.00. Council provided \$3,000.00

Water Festival—Council provided assistance to the Montgomery Soil & Water Conservation District in organizing a water festival at Auburn University Montgomery. Approximately 1,000 fourth graders attended the activities. Total project cost \$13,300. Council provided \$2,500.

Autaugaville Water System—Council provided water supply for twelve residents who were isolated from the Prattville water system. Total project cost \$18,000. Council provided \$7,000.

Fort Deposit Arts Council—Council provided \$2,700 to purchase a refrigerator unit for this one-day craft fair event. Approximately 22,000 people attended.

Town of Franklin/Water Extension—Council provided public water to sixteen residents, which had been forced to use contaminated private wells. Council worked with South Central Alabama Development Commission in meeting the financial need of these residents. Total project cost \$149,225. Council provided \$5,000 of this cost.

Greenville Police Training Classroom—Council assisted in moving a portable classroom from a local school to the Greenville police firing range.

The building will be used for a training classroom for policemen. The school system donated the classroom. Council secured a \$3,000 appropriation from State Rep. Charles Newton.

Harris Park Renovation Project—Council and the Bullock County Commission renovated this existing facility in Midway, Alabama. This renovation will enhance the total usage of the park by providing new recreational activities. Council provided \$5,000. Total project cost \$38,735.

Browntown Cooperative—Continues to provide assistance to coop members to establish plasticulture as a proven farming method. Provide additional information as requested.

Cage Catfish—Provided assistance to producers in locating marketing outlets. Kept producers informed on hatcheries with available fingerlings for restocking.

Lagoon Pump-Out Equipment—Mid-South RC&D Council continued to make available pump-out equipment for area producers to pump out animal waste lagoon.

South Butler Rescue, Inc—Council allocated \$4,000 to purchase a motorized power pack unit for Jaws of Life. This will enhance their ability to provide faster and more efficient service in emergency extrication. Total project cost \$10,000.

Liberty Volunteer Fire Department—Council allocated \$4,000 toward purchasing a utility body, tank, and pump to equip an existing fire truck. Total project cost \$9,500.



*Mid-South RC&D
Council continues to
support the efforts of
our brave police officers
and firefighters
with assistance
whenever possible.*



MedAssist assisting seniors with medication costs.

NORTHWEST RC&D COUNCIL

The Northwest RC&D Council covers the following Alabama counties: Colbert, Franklin, Lauderdale, Marion, and Winston. The office is located in Tuscumbia.

PROJECTS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR 2001

MULTI-COUNTY PROJECTS

Water Festival—There were two festivals one for Lauderdale and one for Colbert Counties, the festivals included environmental education in the form of water quality to fourth grade students.

Progressive Farmer Safety Day—This will be our third annual safety training for children. This year Lauderdale, Colbert & Franklin NRCS Offices will each hold their own safety camp. RC&D will volunteer to assist with those and possibly make some sort of contribution towards each camp.

Economic Development Conference—This year will be our fourth annual conference. This project consists of coordinating the conference and scheduling various government agencies to complete educational presentations. Each agency has a chance to communicate at the meeting what they are about and what services they have to offer.

The Elderly Medication Program (TEMP)—This project assists senior citizens to access prescription drugs at little or no cost and consists of both financial and technical assistance. We will partner with NACOLG on this project and write a grant to Commission on Aging.

Wheels to Work—This project consists of working with the Alabama Department of Human Resources (DHR) on a project that will allow qualified recipients to purchase a car at little or no down payment and no interest, therefore, allowing them to become self-sufficient and free of dependency on welfare. We currently have a contract with DHR that will fund the administrative portion of the program, and we will continue to ask for donations and/or apply for grants to fund the transportation portion of the program.

School to Career—This project consists of technical assistance and working with the local chapters of Chamber of Commerce. This business-driven partnership is designed to provide a higher quality of life for the citizens of Northwest Alabama through the education and training of young adults regarding the importance of staying in school so that they may be competitive in the job market.

continued

Roger Hayes and Teresa Stewart present Senator Roger Bedford an award for his contribution to the TEMP Program.



2001 OFFICERS AND STAFF

Chair—Larry Jackson

Vice-Chair—Roger Hayes

Secretary—Earl Waldrep

RC&D Coordinator—Teresa Stewart

RC&D Program Asst.—
Susan Blazek

Wheels Regional Program Manager—
Joan Williams

Secretary—Stacy Page

Florence TEMP Nurse—
Patsy Richardson

Phil Campbell TEMP Nurse—
Dee Watkins

Haleyville TEMP Nurse—
Danita Moore

Florence TEMP Senior Aid—
Edna Ogletree

Haleyville PT TEMP Secretary—
Mellissa Tucker

Office Location:

Northwest RC&D Council
1101 Hwy. 72 East, Suite #17
Tuscumbia, AL 35674
256.383.1446

NORTHWEST RC&D COUNCIL MEMBERS

Colbert County

James Bingham
NW Shoals Community College
Town of Littleville
Alford & Dorothy Boyd
H.A. Blackburn
Dean McCormack
James Harrell

Franklin County

Freida Eubank
Sandra Payne
Mary Hudson
Rep. Johnny Mack Morrow
Clarence & Earlene Lucas
Judge Mike Green
Howard Grissom
Lisa Stockton
Don Kimberly
Victoria Phillips
Mayor John Brown
James T. Wyatt

Lauderdale County

Dewey Mitchell
Hollis & Macie Rice
Dr. H.A. Henderson
Mayor Eddie Frost
James Hellums

Marion County

Don Barnwell
Charles Stone
Bill Kilpatrick
Virgil McGuire
Mayor Steve Legan

Winston County

Mayor Albright
Elmo Robertson
Mayor Steve Barnett

NORTHWEST RC&D COUNCIL PROJECTS CONTINUED

Pesticide Pick-Up Day—This project consists of an opportunity for area residents, farmers and business to properly dispose of unwanted pesticides. Two locations throughout our five counties were specified for drop off and professionals were on hand to properly dispose of these hazardous chemicals.

FRANKLIN COUNTY:

Envirothon Team—This project consists of financial assistance for the Franklin County Envirothon Team to offset associated costs. The team competes annually with other teams across the state and the state winner competes nationally. \$500.00 was allocated to this project.

Hispanic Coalition—This project consists of assisting the Coalition acquire the funding to open an office in Russellville. \$1,720.00 was allocated to this project.

Phil Campbell PTO—This project consists of construction of a covered walkway at the Phil Campbell Elementary School. \$1000.00 was allocated to this project.

Burnout Community Center—This project consists of renovations to the community center. \$500.00 was allocated to this project.

C.I.T.Y. Program—This project consist of financial assistance with a youth endangerment program. \$1011.00 was allocated to this project.

Union Community Center—This project consists of renovations to the community center. \$2000.00 was allocated to this project.

Millennium 2000—This project consists of construction of a handicap peer at Cedar Creek Lake. \$2000.00 was allocated to this project.

Frog Pond Community Center—This project consists of the purchase and installation of a central heat and air unit for the community center. \$1000.00 was allocated to this project.

COLBERT COUNTY:

LaGrange Living Historical Association—This project consists of financial assistance for various LaGrange Historical renovation projects. \$981.00 was allocated to this project.

Leighton Library—This project consists of financial assistance for building renovation costs. \$1000.00 was allocated to this project.

ARC of the Shoals—This project consists of financial assistance in paying the mortgage for the Torbert Group Home. \$500.00 was allocated to this project.

Colbert Heights Elementary—This project consists of construction of a ballfield. \$750.00 was allocated to this project.

Cherokee Library—This project consists of assisting with some of the financial assistance required to purchase furniture for the library. \$4000.00 was allocated to this project.

Town of Littleville—This project consists of the purchase of playground equipment for the town park. \$1000.00 was allocated to this project.

Helen Keller Festival—This project consists of assisting with the financial costs associated with the annual festival. \$500.00 was allocated to this project.

Leighton High School—This project consists of baseball field renovations. \$750.00 was allocated to this project.

LAUDERDALE COUNTY:

Children's Advocacy Center—This project consists of financial assistance for renovations to the house where the center is located. \$1288.50 was allocated toward this project.

Shoals Entrepreneurial Center—This project consists of funding for a shared commercial kitchen. \$1288.50 was allocated toward this project.

Waterloo VFD—This project consists of financial assistance to upgrade fire trucks. \$1288.50 was allocated to this project.

Waterloo Walking Trail—This project consists of the development of a nature walking trail. \$1000.00 was allocated to this project.

Grassy Community—This project consists of renovations to the community center. \$1000.00 was allocated to this project.

Children's Museum of the Shoals—Consists of construction costs for the new museum. \$1288.50 was allocated to this project.

Town of Rogersville—Helped finance improvements to their city park. \$1288.50 was allocated to this project.

continued

Northwest RC&D Vice Chairman Roger Hayes and Chairman Larry Jackson



On January 31, 2002, the Northwest Alabama RC&D Council presented Chairman Larry Jackson with an award for "Outstanding Council Member of the Year" for his outstanding dedication and 12 years of loyal service.

Helping our clients save money



*The TEMP Program
has saved
the elderly citizens
of Northwest Alabama
over \$1.6 million
in prescription
medication costs
from March 2001
through January 2002*

NORTHWEST RC&D COUNCIL PROJECTS CONTINUED

Town of Killen—Helped finance improvements to their city park. \$1288.50 was allocated to this project.

MARION COUNTY:

Guin Park & Recreation—Consists of ballfield renovations. \$3243.66 was allocated to this project.

City of Hamilton—Consists of construction of restroom facilities at their city park. \$3243.66 was allocated to this project.

Town of Brilliant—Consists of construction of fencing and backstop for their baseball field. \$3243.66 was allocated to this project.

WINSTON COUNTY:

Meek School—Consists of repairs around the school of an erosion problem. \$1746.20 was allocated to this project.

Lynn Athletic Booster Club—Consists of ballfield renovations. \$1746.20 was allocated to this project.

Addison High School—Consists of the addition of lights at the ballfield. \$1746.20 was allocated to this project.

Willow Run Park—Consists of the addition of restroom facilities that are handicap accessible. \$1746.20 was allocated to this project.

Haleyville Board of Education—Consists of ballfield renovations. \$1746.20 was allocated to this project.

Nesmith Community Center—Consists of renovations to the community center. \$500.00 was allocated to this project.

Natural Bridge Community Center—Consists of construction of a new community center. \$500.00 was allocated to this project.



*This innovative
“Hands On” nature
and science museum
for children of all
ages was made
possible in part by
Northwest RC&D.*

TENNESSEE VALLEY RC&D COUNCIL

The Tennessee Valley RC&D Council covers the following Alabama counties: DeKalb, Cullman, Jackson, Lawrence, Limestone, Madison, Marshall, and Morgan. The office is located in Decatur.

These projects demonstrate our expertise, environmental commitment, partnership dedication and capabilities. All of the Council's projects have community benefit.

PROJECTS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR 2001

Agricultural Heavy Use Areas (352)—Helped livestock producers install porous pads at watering and / or feeding areas to prevent runoff of nutrients into streams. Funded by ADEM 319 Funds and cattle farmers.

Portable Compost Screener / Bagger (383)—Poultry Litter Composting for horticultural markets to assist farmers in their effort to compost chicken litter and market as a soil replacement. (DeKalb county / Sand Mountain Area)

W.H.I.N.G.S. (393)—Helped farmers establish wildlife food plots or habitat under Power Line Right of Ways. It reduces power outages and helps wildlife species. Funded by Joe Wheeler Electric Co-op.

Clean Vessel Act II – Education Program (416)—Marina Sewage Pump-out Education Program educated boat owners on the dangers of discharging raw sewage into area lakes, especially the protected waters of marinas. Funded by ADEM and the US Fish and Wildlife Service Clean Vessel Act.

Phillips Park Improvement (450)—Assisted a small rural community park with needed improvements.*

Greenhouse for Section High School (452)—Assisted Section school to develop a green house for educational purposes.*

Madison County Ground Water Festival 2001 (447)—Helped local committee with a two day water quality festival for elementary students.*

Outdoor Education Owens Cross Roads (448)—Assists Owens Cross Roads with their development of an outdoor educational area.*

continued

Teaching people about the Clean Vessel Act



2001 OFFICERS AND STAFF

Chairman—Robert Harbison

Vice-Chair—James Long

Secretary/Treasurer—
Brenda Blankenship

RC&D Coordinator—Mike Roden

RC&D Secretary—Mary Elliott

RC&D Accounting Clerk—
Tammy Kerby

RC&D Project Manager—
Jay Grantland

*RC&D Program Manager/
Tenn River Basin Facilitator*—
Vicky Mitchell

Office Location:

Tennessee Valley RC&D Council
4511 U.S. Hwy. 31 South
Decatur, AL 35603
256.353.6146
Mike.Roden@al.usda.gov

TENNESSEE VALLEY RC&D COUNCIL MEMBERS

Madison County

*James Long
Mike Gillispie
Kathy Walker
Bob Culver
Albert Butler
Vanessa Colebaugh

Morgan County

*Jeff Clark
*Brenda Blankenship
C.A. Blevins
Timothy Mitchell
Susan Nava
Ann Smith

DeKalb County

*John Eason
Stanley McClendon

Lawrence County

*Linda Harville
*Ruthie Jones
Ann Warren
Barkley Lentz

Jackson County

*John Brown

Marshall County

*Jerrell Smalley
Billy Cannon
Ted Parker
Donald Smith

TENNESSEE VALLEY RC&D COUNCIL PROJECTS CONTINUED

Limestone County Groundwater Festival 2001 (457)—Assisted the local committee to plan and finance their educational event. This event reached 800 hundred 4th grade elementary students.*

Salem Park Improvements (458)—Assisted the local community with improvements on a rural park.*

Clean Vessel Act III (438)—Funded presentations for major events. Funded by ADEM and the US Fish and Wildlife Clean Vessel Funds.

Programmatic Education and Outreach (440)—Helped new watershed conservancy districts deliver programs. Funded by ADEM/CWAP/ Legacy.

Lincoln – Bridgeforth Park Improvements (459)—Assisted the local committee with the improvements on this rural park.*

On Site Sewage Workshops (482a)—Provided advanced onsite sewage treatment workshops and brochures to system designers and installers in Muscle Shoals, Decatur and Rainsville. Funded by Alabama Department of Public Health / ADEM.

CASA Wheel Chair Ramps (483)—Helped CASA build wheelchair ramps for needy individuals regardless of age or income. Volunteers built the ramps at no cost to the client. No insurance or entitlement programs cover the cost of ramps. Often the client can't get out of their homes until we build a ramp for them.*

Marshall County Walking Trail (487)—Helped to establish landscaping, repair of pies, and campsites at the Marshall County Park.*

Sparkman Outdoor Classroom (493)—Provided for an outdoor education classroom and trail.*

Accelerated Reader Program (495)—Provided needed educational materials to the children in Lincoln school.*

Dutton Walking Trail (497)—Helped create a walking trail that provided "Quality of life" benefits. Quality of life factors are important in that industries looking to locate in small Alabama communities consider recreation services for the employee's families important.*

Bridgeport Walking Trail (498)—Helped in the creation of a walking trail that

BOARD MEMBERS CONTINUED

provided “Quality of life” benefits. Quality of life factors are important to insure that rural residents remain in rural areas.*

Stevenson Nature Trail (499)—Uses the abundantly diverse habitats in the outdoor classroom situation in the safest way possible by building a walkway approximately 130 feet and a dock into the water.*

Limestone Groundwater Festival (500)—Increases consumer awareness of non point source pollution of groundwater aquifers and what individuals can do to improve and protect the quality of this water. Approximately 800 students and their teachers attended the festival this year with over 50 volunteers.*

Water Quality Monitoring (Piney Creek) (501)—Helped conduct basic water quality and macro-invertebrate monitoring and bacteriological testing on the following eight streams listed on the 1998 303(d) list for the Tennessee River Basin: Big Creek, Elk River, French Mill Creek, Limestone Creek, Piney Creek, Round Island Creek, Shoal Creek and Swan Creek.*

Geraldine Greenhouse (502)—Helped to establish a greenhouse program in order to equip students with the skills necessary to enter the job market for all areas of starting, growing and marketing green house plants.*

Wood Duck Nesting Boxes (503)—Helps to restore a habitat conducive to wood ducks. Seventy-eight shallow water impoundments have been constructed at the mitigation site. With nesting box installation, ducks will start to use the area quicker. The added nesting sites replace other nest sites destroyed countywide.*

Spanish Outreach (504)—Provided English to Spanish and Spanish to English training to kids.

Flint Creek Watershed Environmental Education (505)—Educated students, adults, elected officials, agricultural producers, and residents within the watershed about the effects of pollution on the water quality of Flint Creek.*

CADD0 Rural Fire Department (506)—Helped complete the remodeling of an existing fire station to enhance the “living” and office areas, thereby improving the facility to meet the changing needs of the East Lawrence County area.*

Moulton School Playground Equipment (507)—Replaced some existing playground equipment that was over 25 years old.*

Renewed Man Outreach (508)—Educated rural youths to help keep them in

continued

Cullman County

*Robert Harbison
Grover Reeves
Edwin Carter
Cherrie Haney
Tammy Roden
Jerry Parham
Earline Johnson
Gwen Purifoy
Michael Cone
Sammie Harris
Tim Scott
Deborah Widner
Hosea Nall

Limestone County

*Nathan Brooks
Bill Latimer
Brenda Wiggington
Jerry Davis

Project W.H.I.N.G.S*Project W.H.I.N.G.S.*

*helps farmers
establish food plots
under powerline
right-of-ways to
reduce power outages
and help area wildlife*

TENNESSEE VALLEY RC&D COUNCIL PROJECTS CONTINUED

school and provided GED assistance for those that have dropped out. Funded by RC&D State funds and local support.★

Senior Citizen Medication Program (509)—Provides medications for seniors, funded by Cullman County Commission on Aging and state RC&D funds.★

Sweet Potato Marketing (510)—Provided equipment needed to develop and market new sweet potato products.★

Vinemont Landscaping (512)—Provided landscaping materials for the FFA to landscape the new middle school in Vinemont, Alabama.★

Asbury Walking Trail Addition (513)—Helped construct the nature trail and outdoor classroom at Asbury Jr. High.★

Water Monitoring (514)—Assisted in the education, organization and training of volunteer water quality monitors and watershed education through NRCS Earth Team and Envirothon activities through the Alabama Water Watch Program.★

Environmental Education Clean Water Partnership Program Support (515)—Delivers a brochure and a watershed education outreach effort.★

Community Park Land in Hatton (516)—Purchased land for the park using a special appropriation from the State Legislature.★

Town Creek Building & Running Track (517)—Provided needed recreational opportunities to the children in this small town to improve the quality of life.★

Moulton Restroom Facilities (518)—This project provided restroom facilities for the children in a minority area of Moulton.★

Lights for Veterans Park (519)—This project assisted a small rural community to improve their recreational opportunities by installing lights for the ball fields.★

Pond For Aquatic Studies (520)—This project provided a pond on the county School Board's educational center for children. Hands-on learning opportunities were created.★

Clements School (522)—Funded by the local school. Assisted the school to install water disposal BMP's on school property. The school has been planned and local leaders have used the plan to apply for additional funds.★

Items denoted by ★ were funded by State RC&D funds.

TOMBIGBEE RC&D COUNCIL

The Tombigbee Resource Conservation and Development Council (RC&D) is part of a special program through USDA to conserve our natural resources and to improve the overall economic condition of our local citizens. The Council is composed of representatives from County Commissions, Soil Conservation Districts, and one member-at-large in each of the following eight counties: Bibb, Fayette, Greene, Hale, Lamar, Pickens, Sumter, and Tuscaloosa.

The Tombigbee RC&D Council meets a minimum of four times per year. The Executive Board meets at least once between council meetings and otherwise as needed.

PROJECTS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR 2001

Woodstock Elementary Phase 01 (Bibb County)—This project included a new road at the school provided by funds from State Representative Mary Sue McClurkin and the Council. The road was designed for school buses to drop off and pick up students, which helped alleviate the traffic problems at the school.

Brent Elementary Paved Access Road (Bibb County) —This project included upgrading and paving a new access road at the rear of the school for parents to drop off and pick up their children. With the development of this road, the school buses are able to use the space in front of the school, which helped alleviate the traffic congestion.

Fayette Elementary School Playground (Fayette County) —This project provided new safe playground equipment at Fayette Elementary Playground. This project allows a safe place for the students to play and exercise.

Commercial Rabbit Production/Demo (Greene County) —The Council secured a grant from Tuskegee to help a local rabbit producer set up a demo. The grant helped purchase rabbits, feed, cages, etc. to set up the demo.

Rabbit Processing Plant (Greene County) —Rabbit processing in the state will help provide a local market for Alabama grown rabbits and assist in developing the Southeastern Rabbit Cooperative.

continued

Wheels to work client receiving keys to her vehicle from State Senator Phil Poole. Louis Barnett, Director of Community Services of West Alabama and project partner assist in the presentation.



2001 OFFICERS AND STAFF

Chairman—Wayne Meherg

Vice-Chairman—Craig Sizemore

Secretary/Treasurer—Neil Hyche

Coordinator—Michael O. Cornett

Secretary—Linda McGraw

Wheels Regional Program Manager—
Pam Erickson

Wheels/RC&D Secretary—
Deborah Collins

TEMP Program Manager—
Phyllis Patrick

Office Location:

Tombigbee RC&D Council
1118 Greensboro Avenue
Room 233
Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35401
205.759.1649

TOMBIGBEE RC&D COUNCIL MEMBERS

Bibb County

Gene Moreland
John Goodson
Mike Oakley

Fayette County

John Gordon
Larry Humber
Wayne Meherg

Greene County

Chris Beeker
Willice Lashley
Earlean Isaac

Hale County

Leland Avery
Tommy Martin
Eva Bryant Green

Lamar County

Johnny Rogers
Craig Sizemore
Harold Jordan

Pickens County

Ernest Summerville
Cleve Hale
Susan Wolfe

Sumter County

Anthony Crear
Micky Smith
Richard Holland

Tuscaloosa County

Judge Hardy McCollum
Neil Hyche
Farrington Snipes

TOMBIGBEE RC&D COUNCIL PROJECTS CONTINUED

Southeastern Rabbit Cooperative Assistance (Greene County) —The Council continues support of the SERC by providing technical assistance to the Board and Coop membership. This project addresses the production and marketing of rabbits within West Alabama.

Area wide Salt Water Shrimp Production —This project addresses the problems determining proper stocking rates, quality control of shrimp by monitoring such items as growth, mortality, water temperature and water quality.

Forkland Recreation Park Renovation (Greene County) —State and local funds were used to level and revegetate softball fields, replace basketball goals and tennis court nets, repair shelter and fences, plant shrubs, trees and wildflowers and develop walking trails at the park.

Carver Middle School Environmental Education Park (Greene County)—State and local funds were combined to create an environmental education park area to provide unique learning experiences.

Dixie Youth Little League Phase 01 (Hale County) —This project included a new press box and equipment storage to improve the utilization of the Greensboro Dixie Youth Little League Ball League.



RC&D funds were used to fund portions of the Moundville Elementary playground which are used by school children during the week and by the entire community after hours and on weekends.

Lamar County Courthouse Renovation (Lamar County)—State funds were used to assist in the renovation of restrooms and provide handicap accessibility at the courthouse.

Pickens County Genealogical Society Historical/Reference Library (Pickens County)—State funds were used to salvage and preserve a historical site in Pickens County. The site provides a location where individuals can come and research their family and county history.

“Save the Face” Renovation —Old Pickens County Courthouse—State funds were used to assist in the renovation and restoration of portions of the Old Pickens County Courthouse and preservation of the “Face in the Window” tourist attraction.

Aliceville Basketball Court Renovation (Pickens County)—This project provided the opportunity for renovation of a community basketball court. Goals, nets and markings were replaced or repaired.

Rural Members Cooperative – Ag Training Demonstration (Pickens County) —This project demonstrated agricultural enterprise to groups of youth and coop members. Funding was made available through the Council and matched by the Rural Members Cooperative to hold two demonstration events.

Macedonia Playground Project (Pickens County) —Assistance was provided to the Pickens County Commission to renovate a playground in the Macedonia community. Grant funds were used to purchase materials and local citizens provided the labor to install and renovate the project.

Sumter County Historical Society –Choctaw Tavern (Sumter County) —This project involved the restoration of the old Stagecoach/Tavern at its new location on the campus of the University of West Alabama in Livingston.

Shirley-Real Environmental Trail, Phase I (Tuscaloosa County) —This trail, named for two leaders in the conservation movement in Alabama, will be developed to provide educational activities for approximately 50,000 students annually. The trail is located at Tannehill State Park on the Jefferson and Tuscaloosa counties border. Funds were used to purchase seedlings and plants for establishment along the trail. Butterfly gardens, wildflower gardens, permanent wildlife habitat and permanent fire lanes are being established along the trail.

continued



Rabbits are grown by Southeastern Rabbit Cooperative members for the meat market.

Rabbit meat is lower in cholesterol and higher in protein than most other meats.

A 4 1/2 Lb. rabbit can be grown in 10 weeks.

Wheels to Work Client Renada Young receives vehicle title from Pam Ericson, program director after paying off her loan with her tax refund



*Wheels to Work
loans help provide
people in our
community the
transportation
they need
to keep a job
and provide
income
for their families.*

TOMBIGBEE RC&D COUNCIL PROJECTS CONTINUED

Tuscaloosa County Courthouse Annex Beautification —The Tuscaloosa County Commission and the Soil & Water Conservation District teamed up to add beautification treatment material at the recently renovated courthouse annex. Shrubs were planted around the newly remodeled building that houses county government offices.

Tuscaloosa County Conservation Education —Funds were used to purchase educational materials to be used in the development of conservation programs throughout the county.

Wheels to Work – Area wide —This project provides low cost vehicles for purchase by welfare to work clients who have a job but need transportation to keep it. Management of the program is through a grant from the Alabama Department of Human Resources.

Rabbit Processing Plant – Area wide —Rabbit processing in the state will provide a local market for Alabama grown rabbits and assist in developing the Southeastern Rabbit Cooperative.

On-Site Wastewater Disposal Training Center – Area wide—Funds were provided to assist in the continued development and enhancement of the Training Center. More than 400 individuals have participated in training classes at the center.

Envirothon 2001 – Area wide —The council continues to assist in the development of the statewide Envirothon program.



Alabama On-Site Wastewater Training Center provides training to all advanced system on-site wastewater disposal system installers in Alabama. The Drip Emitter system pictured is only one of the many systems demonstrated. More than 400 people have received training at the center located on the campus of the University of West Alabama.

WIREGRASS RC&D COUNCIL

The Wiregrass RC&D Council covers the following counties in Southeast Alabama: Barbour, Coffee, Covington, Crenshaw, Dale, Geneva, Henry, Houston, Pike and Russell. The office is located in Ozark.

PROJECTS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR 2001

Eufaula Courthouse Renovation - Barbour County—The historic Eufaula courthouse is being renovated and restored. The Council assisted with funding for landscaping and erosion control measures on the grounds.

Coffee County Landfill Entrance - Coffee County—The Council assisted in landscaping the entrance to the Coffee County Landfill, including installing erosion control measures and block sod.

Patsaliga River Boat Ramp - Covington County—A public boat ramp was installed on the Patsaliga River to provide a safe and convenient launching area for boats on the river.

Red Level School Recreation - Covington County—The Council assisted Red Level Schools with funding and a design for erosion control for the ball fields that serve the schools.

Douglas Park Drainage Ditch - Crenshaw County—A drainage ditch located in a public park was severely degraded, causing flooding problems. The ditch was shaped and concrete lined by the City of Luverne. (See photo, page 39.)

Carroll High School Campus Improvement - Dale County—The Council assisted the High School Environmental Science Class and Biology Club in purchasing plants and supplies to landscape several areas on campus.

Newton Recreation Facility - Dale County—The one ball field available for the citizens of Newton was re-worked. Bleachers, lighting and fencing was purchased. New batting cages and playground equipment were also purchased.

Chancellor Drainage and Flood Control - Geneva County—The Council assisted with reconstruction of a drainage system to stop flooding problems for nearby residents and control long-term erosion.

continued

Representative Steve Clouse and Senator Jimmy Holley present check to Newton Mayor Mike Byrd (Left) on Opening Day as Doug Ward, RC&D Coordinator looks on. Funds were used to renovate the ball field used by the schools and little leagues in this rural area.



2001 OFFICERS AND STAFF

Chair—Gloria Hagler

Vice-Chair—Louis Register

Secretary-Treasurer—James Peebles

RC&D Coordinator—Doug Ward

Secretary—Mara Balkcom

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WIREGRASS RC&D BOARD MEMBERS

Barbour County

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Carol Threatt
Earl Gilmore
Gloria Hagler
Patrick McDougal

Coffee County

Gilmer Grant
Jackie Thompson
Jerry Mack
Douglas Dalrymple
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Judy Hurley

Covington County

Bobby R. Jackson
Wayne Reynolds
Sandra Owens
Darren Capps
Gwen Kelley
Bragg Carter

Crenshaw County

Walter B. (Barnett) King
Carl Sikes
Terry Warrick
Howard Cook
Morris Tate
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Dale County

James H. (Howell) Peebles
Charlie Harper
Herman Judah
Estus Walker

Geneva County

Louis Register
Harry Chancy
Janie Howell
Larry Everett
Roy Powell
Riley Siebenheiner

WIREGRASS RC&D COUNCIL PROJECTS CONTINUED

Headland Recreation Park Covered Pavilion - Henry County—A

covered pavilion was constructed at the Headland Recreation Park to provide and area of shade, weather protection and a place for park visitors to rest and have meals.

Cottonwood Recreation Park - Houston County—The Council assisted the Town of Cottonwood in constructing a new recreation complex, including six new ball fields.

Houston County Distribution Park - Houston County—A sign and landscaping was added at the entrance to the distribution park as part of an effort to attract new businesses to the park.

Murphree Park Renovation - Pike County—The Council assisted the Town of Troy with developing a public park and playground area.

Hurtsboro JET Center - Russell County—The Council assisted the Junior Educators of Tomorrow (JET) with needed repairs to the Center that is used for community education purposes. The Council provided funding for repairs to the roof and interior of the structure. Additional assistance included purchasing of needed appliances and equipment, and assisting with securing additional funding for the project.



Murphree Park - This RC&D funded project utilized volunteer labor to build a play area for residents of Troy, and as part of a larger park plan for the Town.

Pleasant Home Community Building - Crenshaw County—The Council assisted Pleasant Home Community with securing funding to roof a historical school building being used as a polling place.

Town of Rutledge Emergency Generator - Crenshaw County—The Council assisted the Town of Rutledge in securing funding to purchase a generator for the Town for the purpose of providing emergency power during a period of power outage.

Brantley School Outdoor Classroom- Crenshaw County—Brantley School was assisted with grant application and funding information to help the school implement an outdoor classroom in conjunction with the Brantley Garden Club.

Dale County 5th Grade Forestry Field Days- Dale County—The Council assisted the Dale County Forestry Planning Committee with conducting forestry field day tours for the fifth graders of Dale County and Ozark City Schools. Over 450 students attended.

continued



Douglas Park (Luverne, Alabama) - This stream channel/drainage ditch was formerly known as the snake pit. A lined concrete channel will control runoff and erosion, while preventing a return to a weed infested, mosquito breeding area. This channel is located in the center area of a town park, which is currently being developed.

BOARD MEMBERS CONTINUED

Henry County

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Carolyn Riley
S.A. Williams
Holt Stokes
Bill Parker
Tommy Jones

Houston County

Pat Raley
Gene Ragan
Kim Prevatt
Mark Culver
Bobby Snellgrove

Pike County

Boyd Drinkard
James Ray
Wilbur J. (Bill) King
Larry Penn
Herb Huner

Russell County

Ben Bowden
Claude Parkman
Cherry Littleton
Tillman Pugh
Cal Markert



Water-Quality monitoring

*Erosion control measures
have been completed on
one of the scheduled
unpaved roads
included in the
Upper Choctawhatchee
Watershed Project*

WIREGRASS RC&D COUNCIL PROJECTS CONTINUED

Educator's Workshops- Multi-County—Ten educator's workshops were held by the Council and co-sponsored by Choctawhatchee, Pea and Yellow Rivers Watershed Management Authority. The workshop topics included watershed education, grant writing, outdoor classrooms, Project Wet, Project WILD and Alabama Water Watch certification. Over 250 educators attended.

Upper Choctawhatchee River 319 Watershed Project—The Council is assisting the Barbour County SWCD in administration of this five year EPA Section 319 Watershed Project. To date, approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ the demonstration best management practices have been completed. This year, a tour was held for fifth graders, and display booths were located at several local fairs. Erosion control measures have been completed on one of the scheduled unpaved roads included in the project.

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